

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0095
For information online, visit www.des.nh.gov
James P. Martin, Public Information Officer
(603) 271-3710; jmartin@des.state.nh.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 19, 2008

**CONTACT: Barbara Bernstein, Granite State Clean Cities Coordinator
(603) 271-6751**

New Federal/State Requirements for Biodiesel

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services announces that new federal and state requirements for the production and sale of biodiesel in New Hampshire go into effect in December and January. The new requirements are good for the future of biodiesel in the state as they will ensure that this fuel alternative is more readily available and meets stringent fuel quality standards.

Biodiesel is a renewable, domestically produced diesel fuel alternative that can be made from virgin oils (typically soy), waste grease, or animal fats. It has been available in New Hampshire for a number of years and is currently offered for sale at 10 retail pumps. The state is now poised to be home to one or more commercial biodiesel production facilities as well.

In 2008, NH legislation was passed to reduce regulatory barriers in the biodiesel production sector and to protect New Hampshire consumers from poor quality fuel. Relative to the production and distribution of biodiesel, the new legislation will lower costs for smaller companies interested in getting into the biodiesel business. **Effective January 1, 2009**, any person who refines, distills, prepares, blends, manufactures, or purchases 10,000 gallons or less of biodiesel in a monthly period will be allowed to obtain an annual license in lieu of bonding with the NH Department of Safety as previously required.

To ensure a high fuel quality in New Hampshire, the legislation defines biodiesel as a fuel that meets the biodiesel fuel specification as established by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). The legislation also prohibits the sale or delivery of biodiesel fuel in the state that does not meet this definition **beginning January 1, 2009**.

“The use of biodiesel in New Hampshire has increased significantly over the past few years,” noted DES Commissioner Tom Burack. “These new requirements will continue this trend by providing more opportunities for production and sale of biodiesel, while protecting consumers by assuring that this fuel meets high quality specifications.”

In addition, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has recently issued biodiesel pump labeling requirements, **effective December 16, 2008**, so consumers will be aware they are purchasing a biodiesel blend. Biodiesel is typically blended with petroleum diesel and can be used in most diesel engines with no modifications in blends up to and including 20 percent biodiesel (known as B20). Some very old diesel equipment may have issues with blends exceeding 5 percent (B5) and modifications may be necessary to use blends above B20, thus the need for the federal labeling requirements. The new blue labels will inform consumers of the percent of biodiesel that is contained in the biodiesel blend offered for sale at that pump. No label is required for

biodiesel blends containing five percent or less, provided the resulting fuel blend meets the ASTM diesel fuel specification.

For more information on licensing requirements, contact Robert Surowiec, NH Department of Safety, at (603) 271-1029. Information on labeling requirements is available at the Granite State Clean Cities Coalition website at http://www.granitestatecleancities.org/alt_fuels.htm or by contacting the National Biodiesel Board website at <http://www.biodiesel.org/>. For information on fuel quality requirements contact Barbara Bernstein at (603) 271-6751.

#